

Northwestern Ohio Synod

Synod Council Minutes

April 7, 2020

Attending via Zoom: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Melissa Peper Firestone, Phillip Koenig, Becky Seibert, Cindy Harris, Rev. Ann Marshall, Deb Noll, Rev. Steve Ramsey Tom Ritter, , Michelle Schaffer, Diana Schneider, Rev. Janine Shearer, Rev. Ed Strietelmeier, Christina Wheeler, Rev. Mindy Elliott,

Absent: Casey Cox, Brent Gardner Cindy Milbry, Jacob Nekoranec, Rev. Jarrod Schaaf, Jari Knowlton Simard

Staff Attending: Jacob Henry

Bishop Daniel opened with reading from Zephaniah 3:15 and Mark 4:40 *“Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”* Opened with prayer.

1. **Call to order and technical instructions** – Led by Melissa Peper Firestone, Council Vice-President
Melissa opened the meeting at 6:09 pm with a welcome and reason for this meeting being called. Executive Committee met on April 1, 2020 and passed recommendations that needed Synod Council review and vote.
2. **Roll Call** – led by Becky Seibert, Council Secretary
Roll call made with 15 voting members present, Staff member Jacob Henry present via Zoom.
3. **Overview of NWOS response to Covid19 Health Crisis** – Led by Bishop Daniel

Bishop Daniel shared up-to-date happenings from Synod office. Each Tuesday there is a Zoom session hosted by the Bishop focusing on obstacles being faced during this time of distancing due to the Covid19 Health Crisis. Future sessions will address self-care, assess vulnerability, mitigate risk and finances with representative from GSB. A video is sent each Thursday with support.

NWOS has responded through our mission: Saved by the Crucified and Risen Jesus to

Develop Disciples – our congregations and pastors have been forced by the health crisis to do Church differently. To aid in this, we are pivoting some staff time to the development of the Discipleship Initiative, including the hiring of a Lead Coordinator of the Discipleship Initiative.

Equip Leaders – the Bishop is directly investing in the growth of leadership skills of our Rostered Ministers, SAMs, and other leaders through a weekly Zoom meeting. Practical skills are conveyed, relevant topics are discussed, and answers to questions are provided.

Strengthen Parishes – synod staff members are routinely contacting all congregations, rostered ministers, and congregational presidents through personal phone calls. Encouragement is offered, prayer happens, and concerns are collected.

Launch New Communities – the development of the Discipleship Initiative has been fast tracked and will allow us to resource congregations and leaders to minister to a rapidly changing world.

4. Review of Executive Committee Actions:

Hiring of Lead Coordinator of the Discipleship Initiative – led by Bishop Daniel

EC1.20 Hiring of Lead Coordinator of the Discipleship Initiative

“Upon recommendation of the Bishop, the Executive Committee approves the hiring of Calla Gilson as the Lead Coordinator of the Discipleship Initiative with an annual salary of \$36,000, continuing education allowance of \$1,000, and professional expense allowance of \$250.”

“Funding for this position will be taken from the Discipleship Initiative Fund. Monies were transferred into this fund at January 2020 Synod Council meeting from Synod Endowment Fund (\$17,000) with unanimous approval from Synod Council.

Executive Committee serves as HR, no Council action needed. Start date for Calla April 1, 2020. Additional responsibilities of position will be fund raising, establishment of a donor base and how to do Church differently (ex. Huddle process).

5. Postponement of Synod Assembly – Led by Jacob Henry, Synod Administrator

Churchwide Office of the Secretary is recommending that synods without pressing business matters postpone or cancel their assemblies until the fall of 2020 or 2021. Our synod does not have very pressing business. Budgetary issues, filling of council and committee vacancies can be done by the Synod Council if necessary. This is in alignment with our Constitution.

The Executive Committee recommends that the Synod Council postpone this year’s Assembly until next June. Proposed Council Action:

SC20.08 Postponement of 2020 Synod Assembly

“In light of the current health crisis, Synod Council postpones the 2020 Synod Assembly until 2021 and directs synod staff to work with BGSU to propose a date and time for the 2021 Assembly.”

Motion to approve SC20.08 Postponement of 2020 Synod Assembly to 2021 made by Deb Noll, 2nd by Cindy Harris. Motion approved

Jacob asked that public announcement of this action be delayed until next week, so Synod staff has time to notify all vendors and those contracts pending of the postponement.

6. **Additional updates** – Deb Noll has been in contact with Cindy Milbry each Sunday evening. Cindy has no access to internet currently. Efforts will be made to let her know of upcoming Synod meetings via Zoom and how she can use her phone to participate.

May 2, 2020 Synod Council meeting will most likely be via Zoom. We will be notified of log in access.

7. **Roll Call** – led by Becky Seibert, Council Secretary—roll call made
8. **Sending Prayer** – Bishop Daniel

Respectfully submitted

Becky Seibert

Synod Council Secretary

